MARVEL

6

ROSENBERG • GORHAM • GARLAND

THE NEW MUTANTS

DEAD SOULS

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BORN WITH AN X-GENE THAT GRANTS THEM WEIRD AND UNCANNY ABILITIES, MUTANTS ARE THOUGHT TO BE THE NEXT STEP IN HUMAN EVOLUTION. XI'AN COY MANH, A DISCIPLE OF THE MUTANT ACTIVIST CHARLES XAVIER, HAS ASSEMBLED A TEAM OF UNIQUELY QUALIFIED MUTANTS LED BY ILLYANA RASPUTIN (A.K.A. MAGIK) TO INVESTIGATE WEIRD AND UNCANNY PHENOMENA.

ILLYANA RECENTLY DISCOVERED THAT XI'AN'S UNDEAD BROTHER, TRAN, WAS BEHIND A STRING OF SUPERNATURAL INCIDENTS AROUND THE WORLD. TRACKING HIM TO DOCTOR STRANGE'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM, STRONG GUY RESTRAINED TRAN UNTIL ILLYANA BANISHED THEM BOTH TO LIMBO.

MEANWHILE IN CONNECTICUT, THE TECHNO-ORGANIC EXTRATERRESTRIAL KNOWN AS WARLOCK, HIMSELF A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF XI'AN'S, WAS ATTACKED BY A GROUP OF KIDS AND EXPLODED INTO DUST. ONE OF THE CHILDREN WAS INFECTED AND EXPLODED A SHORT TIME LATER…

CHAPTER 6:
SOMETHING MUST BREAK

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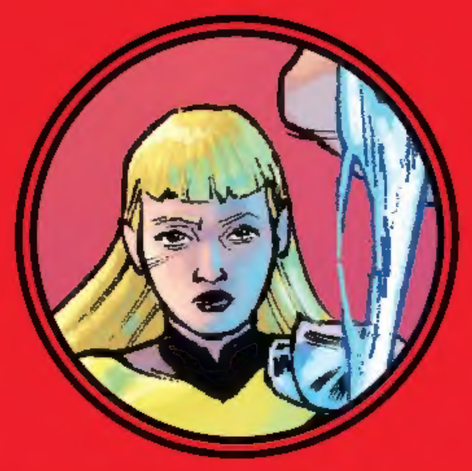

MAGIK
ILLYANA RASPUTIN

RICTOR
JULIO RICHTER

BOOM-BOOM
TABITHA SMITH

STRONG GUY
GUIDO CAROSELLA

WOLFSBANE
RAHNE SINCLAIR

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.

ICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE

I'VE BEEN OVER THE WHOLE THING. THERE'S NO SIGN OF HIM.

THREE MONTHS AGO.

NO, YOU WERE RIGHT TO SEND ME. I CAN'T QUITE PUT MY FINGER ON IT, BUT SOMETHING UNUSUAL HAPPENED HERE.

I JUST DON'T SENSE YOUR BROTHER'S INVOLVEMENT.

...

NOBODY BUT YOU CALLS IT *"VALKYRIE SENSE,"* BUT YES, SHAN. IF TRAN'S SOUL WAS HERE I WOULD HAVE ***SENSED*** HIM.

YEAH, I'M DONE HERE. I'LL HEAD BACK IN A BIT AND WE CAN GRAB DINNER AND FIGURE OUT WHERE TO GO NEXT.

DANIELLE MOONSTAR.

WHAT IS THIS?

SNIFF

HAAACHK! HUACH!

÷GASP÷ PLEASE HELP... ÷GASP÷

SELF... FRIEND...

XI'AN COY MANH calling...

DANI...? HELLO?

CANTERBURY, CONNECTICUT.
NOW.

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BE IN THERE, YA KNOW.

YES, I AM.

MY MOM SAYS THEY ALL DIED BECAUSE THE KID WHO LIVED THERE WAS A MUTIE FREAK.

TELL YOUR MOM TO GO @$%# HERSELF.

THE HATCHI CORPORATION. HEADQUARTERS OF THE NEW MUTANTS.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT ILLYANA LOOKED AT. ALL I CAN TELL YOU IS SHE ACCESSED A LOT OF SECURE FILES LAST NIGHT.

HOW WAS SHE ABLE TO DO THAT?

I GAVE HER ACCESS.

WHAT?

YOU MADE HER TEAM LEADER. *I* JUST ASSUMED SHE WAS ALLOWED TO LOOK AT IT. IS THERE A REASON SHE *ISN'T?*

"DAMMIT. I HAVE TO FIND HER."

WHERE IS ILLYANA?

AH HAVENAE SEEN HER IN A COUPLE AH DAYS. WHY?

GO AWAY! HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU I DON'T WORK EARLY MORNINGS!

IT'S NOON, TABBY. WHY DID YOU GO ON A MISSION THAT I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT? AND WHY DID ILLYANA NEVER FILE A FIELD REPORT ABOUT THAT MISSION?

WHAT THE $#&@ IS A FIELD REPORT?!

WHERE IS GUIDO?

VACATION?

I KNOW YOU ALL ARE COVERING FOR ILLYANA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO, BUT WHEN I FIND OUT...

AND TELL SHATTERSTAR TO PUT SOME DAMN CLOTHES ON.

NO.

HA! FOUND YOU!

I WASN'T HIDING FROM YOU, SHAN. I WAS JUST OUT.

ARE YOU SURE? BECAUSE IT REALLY FEELS LIKE YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, ILLYANA.

DID YOU TAKE THE TEAM ON AN UNSANCTIONED MISSION?

I ASSUMED YOU DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW THAT YOUR EMPLOYEES BROKE INTO THE SANCTUM SANCTORUM AND STOLE THINGS FROM *DOCTOR STRANGE.*

WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?!

BECAUSE I AM NOT THE ONLY ONE NOT BEING FORTHCOMING, SHAN.

WHAT HAS THE HATCHI CORPORATION BEEN WORKING ON? WHAT WAS THE MISSION IN THE ARCTIC? WHY WERE YOU SO INTERESTED IN HURRICANE CLEANUP?

THIS COMPANY HAS MANY DIFFERENT FACETS. YOU KNOW THIS. WHY ARE WE EVEN DISCUSSING--

YOU WERE WEAPONIZING MAGIC, SHAN. YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT A GOOD IDEA.

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. HATCHI CORPORATION NEEDS TO KEEP UP WITH COMPANIES LIKE RAND, STARK, RICHMOND, ROXXON, TRASK--

TRASK?! ARE YOU LISTENING TO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?

TO SECURE OUR FUTURE IT'S TIME FOR A MUTANT-RUN BUSINESS TO--

IS THIS FOR MUTANTS OR FOR YOU?

DON'T BE SO NAIVE, ILLYANA. WE'RE ENSURING THE SURVIVAL OF *OUR* SPECIES, *OUR* FRIENDS. I'M MAKING SURE THAT MUTANTS HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE. AND OUR CONTRACTORS--

YOU MEAN *O.N.E.?*

DID YOU FORGET? THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY PUT SENTINELS ON OUR DOORSTEP AND YOU WANT TO WORK WITH THEM?

WE DON'T WORK WITH THE OFFICE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY!

YOU REALLY DIDN'T KNOW, DID YOU? OH, SHAN. I'VE ALWAYS WORRIED ABOUT THIS. YOU'VE HAD YOUR BROTHER'S VOICE IN YOUR HEAD FOR MOST OF YOUR LIFE NOW, WHISPERING TO YOU.

BUT SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY I THINK HE STARTED TO TAKE CONTROL. HE WAS DOING THINGS YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT.

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.

YOU'RE FREE OF HIM NOW. YET YOU'RE SENDING US RUNNING ALL OVER THE PLACE TO FIND HIM. WHY?

HE WAS ATTACKING OUR COMPANY. HE WAS HURTING PEOPLE.

IS THAT IT?

LET'S ASK HIM.

TRAN...

HELLO, SISTER.

UFFF!

RRAAAH!

REMEMBER THIS? IT MAKES SURE YOU HAVE A PHYSICAL BODY. AND THAT SYMBOL ON THE FLOOR? A RETAINING SPELL BECAUSE I DIDN'T TRUST YOU. ONLY I CAN PASS THROUGH THIS BARRIER.

NOW IT'S TIME WE ALL TALK.

TRAN... I...

GET HER AWAY FROM ME, WITCH.

I WILL. BUT FIRST, THE IDEA OF SELLING WEAPONIZED MAGIC TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER--WAS IT YOURS OR HERS?

THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE. I'VE BEEN A PART OF HER FOR AS LONG AS YOU'VE KNOWN HER, ILLYANA. HER VOICE AND MINE ARE TWO PARTS OF THE WHOLE. THE YIN AND THE YANG.

FINDING NEW USES FOR MAGIC WAS ME. SAYING IT WAS TO *"SAVE MUTANTS"* WAS HER. I WAS HAPPY TO LET HER CLAIM CREDIT.

YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM!

SHAN, WHERE'S DANI?

WHAT?

WHERE IS DANI MOONSTAR, SHAN?

I DON'T KNOW.

SHE'S LYING.

SOME OF THE EARLY MAGIC WE DISCOVERED ALLOWED ME TO FINALLY ESCAPE MY SISTER'S BODY.

IT SEEMS WHEN THAT HAPPENED SHE WENT A LITTLE CRAZY. SENT HER BELOVED DANI AFTER ME BEFORE SHE HIRED YOUR LITTLE TEAM.

AND YOU HURT HER!

OH, SISTER. IF I *HAD* DONE SOMETHING TO HER I'D BE GLOATING RIGHT NOW.

DO YOU SEE NOW? SHE GOT DANI KILLED IN HER HUNT FOR ME. SHE THINKS SHE'S BROKEN WITHOUT ME, BUT SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN BROKEN. SHE'S OBSESSED. SHE *WANTS* ME BACK.

AND WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?

I WANT HER *DESTROYED.*

I MAY BE HALF OF HER SOUL...BUT SHE IS MY PRISON.

YOU LIE! YOU NEED ME AND I NEED YOU! YOU KNOW IT'S TRUE.

SHAN, HE'S ONLY GROWN MORE POWERFUL SINCE HE'S BEEN OUT. HE WAS ALREADY GAINING CONTROL OF YOU BEFORE. EVEN IF IT WAS MORALLY ACCEPTABLE, TAKING HIM BACK WOULD BE VERY--

YOU WON'T GET AWAY. YOU--

--KNOW YOU BELONG WITH ME, BROTHER.

WAIT... ILLY--

RETURN TO ME!

WELL PLAYED...SISTER OF--

÷GASP÷

WELCOME HOME.

WHAT DID YOU MAKE ME DO?!

DON'T ACT LIKE THIS, ILLYANA. PART OF ME WAS MISSING. YOU KNOW WHAT THAT'S LIKE.

CLK

I KILLED HIM! HOW DARE YOU MAKE ME DO THAT!

OH, STOP. YOU'VE BEEN JUDGING ME THIS WHOLE TIME. ACTING LIKE YOU'RE BETTER THAN ME. WE BOTH KNOW WHAT YOU REALLY ARE. WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN. YOUR WHOLE TEAM...

...YOU'RE MONSTERS.

NO! I AM NOT A--

OOOF!

BOOM

SELFFRIEND ILLYANA NEEDS TO CALM DOWN.

SHAN, WHAT IS THIS?

THERE ARE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, ILLYANA.

TRY ME.

DANI WAS HELPING ME TRACK MY BROTHER BEFORE YOU. BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG AND SHE MERGED WITH ***WARLOCK***. HE WAS VERY SICK AND NEEDED HER TO SURVIVE.

YOU'RE SAYING DANI MOONSTAR IS... IN THERE?!

MOONLOCK IS DANI. MOONLOCK IS WARLOCK.

RRAAAAHH!

UMMM, 'YANA? WHAT AM AH LOOKIN' AT RIGHT NOW?

CRAZIEST STUFF IMAGINABLE. GOT IT. YE CAN JUST SAY THAT NEXT TIME.

WHEN SHAN'S BROTHER'S SOUL LEFT HER, IT FRACTURED HER PSYCHE. SHE'S BEEN LYING TO US ABOUT EVERYTHING AND HAD WARLOCK HIDDEN AWAY CREATING REPLICAS OF US.

IS THIS ONE ME?

YEAH.

IS THERE A PERSON IN THERE?

NO. WARLOCK CAN REPRODUCE BY HIMSELF.

ISN'T IT FASCINATING? HE RE-CREATED ALL HIS FRIENDS.

HE MADE THE *ORIGINAL* NEW MUTANTS.

SO IT'S AN ABOMINATION? THAT'S ALL AH NEEDED TA HEAR!

GOODBYE, FAKE MAGMA!

RAHNE, SWEETFRIEND. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. WE WANT TO HELP YOU.

DANI? THAT REALLY YOU?

AHHCK!

OF COURSE IT'S ME, SWEETFRIEND.

NO! GET OFF OF HER!

GRR!!!

RAHNE?! WHAT SHOULD I DO?

TELL ME WHAT--

HELP ME...

TIME TO MERGE, SELF.

AGGHH!

DON'T EVER TOUCH ME, MONSTER.

OOOOF!

WHAT THE HELL, ILLYANA?!

IF THIS IS MORE OF YOUR WEIRD--

RUN.

WHAT THE @&$# ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT--

I HAVE NO TIME FOR THIS.

MAGIK, PUT THE SWORD DOWN OR WE'LL TAKE IT FROM YOU.

I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU TRY.

COME ON... PLEASE...

RAAAAH!

YOU... MISSED?

NOT QUITE.

HEY, 'YANA! AM I STANDING ON SUNSPOT?

NO! HIT HIM!

OKAY.

GUIDO, DON'T LET THEM TOUCH YOU.

THINGS SURE GOT WEIRD WHILE I WAS GONE, *HUH?* HOW LONG *WAS* THAT?

THIRTY-SIX HOURS.

GUIDO! NO NO NO!

FRIEND IS HAVING A HEART ATTACK. I CAN HELP HIM.

STAY BACK!

OH... FELT LIKE... YEARS.

HE'S DYING, MAGIK. I CAN HELP HIM.

DO IT.

BUT IF YOU HURT HIM--

I CANNOT HURT WHAT IS NOT LIVING. QUIET, PLEASE.

IT DIDN'T DO ANYTHING...

-GASP-

I'M SO SORRY, GUIDO. BUT DON'T DO THAT AGAIN. YOU SCARED ME.

DON'T BE SCARED, LEADERFRIEND.

MMFF!!!

ACK! AHHHCK!

GOOD JOB, TEAM. I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON YOU.

GENERAL CALLAHAN? THIS IS *TRAN COY MANH* FROM THE HATCHI CORPORATION. IF YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR TEST SUBJECTS, I THINK I HAVE SOME YOU'LL LOVE.

MMMMHHH!

QUIET, ENEMYSELF.

WELCOME TO THE TEAM, KARMA.

WE'RE *ALL* MONSTERS NOW.

THE END?

ZONE